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which it became conscious of itself. Let us know how to express our will, and in a Europe in which peace has been re-established, . . . the man of to-morrow will be able freely to develop himself in the complete liberty of his opinions and beliefs, in the assured respect of his rights and in the fulfilment of his duties."

M. J.

THE DECLINE OF LIBERTY IN ENGLAND. By E. S. P. Haynes.  
London: Grant Richards, Ltd., 1916. Pp. 240. Price, 6s net.

Mr. Haynes, whose work as a scholar and social reformer is well known to readers of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ETHICS, takes a strongly national view of the war, and is in internal politics a Conservative of decidedly independent views. This gives additional force to his argument, that "the only effect of the War up to now has been to strengthen the hands of Prussian-minded Britons," and that "great efforts will certainly be made after the war to preserve a number of ordinances which can only be tolerated on the ground of real or alleged necessity." The book is written in order to call attention to this peril, and also to indicate the position and evolution of freedom in the structure of the family and the relations of the sexes. It is written with immense vigor, *verve* and wit. I particularly like the nutshell summaries and exposures of the cruelty and inadequacy of the English marriage and illegitimacy laws—especially in view of the frequent lamentations over the falling birth-rate. The revolutionary importance of birth-control is given due weight and there is an interesting reference to the Sanger case. Christian dogma is shown to be largely responsible for the monstrous treatment of prostitutes, by a society which will neither dispense with their services, nor give them legal security or moral recognition. The essay on "Liberty in Regard to Women" is very sane and fair; and there is a short but temperate and impressive plea for a rational and humane treatment of sexual abnormality. The strong subconscious influence of jealousy is emphasized in the treatment of sexual offenders; this is an excellent point, for it is impossible to forget that sexual scandals have been often used to engineer and confirm the downfall of men who were obnoxious to the English ruling class. The political chapters seem to me less happy: I cannot see how personal liberty and justice between man and man can be permanently secured without popular con-

trol of the means of production and distribution, and I profoundly mistrust the Roman Catholic movement, ably and plausibly led by Belloc and the Chestertons in the name of "democracy." But Mr. Haynes "shows up" the *débâcle* of both Fabianism and our inherited Party System with unflinching clearness, and consistently defends the right of the poor to a free full life and individuality. He has written a brave, learned, and intellectually stimulating book.

F. W. STELLA BROWNE.

London, England.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS. An inquiry into the nature of citizenship in the British Empire and into the mutual relations of the several communities thereof. Part I. Edited by L. Curtis. London: Macmillan and Company, Ltd., 1916. Pp. xx, 710. Price, 12s. net.

This work is the result of many writers working together in close collaboration, an examination or *compte rendu* of the problems of Empire, as they are seen by the groups that have sprung up in the United Kingdom, known informally as "Round Table" groups. It supplies, in addition, the foundations upon which the conclusions of the earlier and shorter work, the *Problem of the Commonwealth*, were based. The word Commonwealth is used throughout to express the idea of a government controlled by the public opinion of its citizens, as contrasted with the Eastern theocratic state.

It is not unnatural that when the future of the British Empire was being weighed in the balance men's minds turned to the possibility of its downfall, and to the effects of that downfall. "The disruption of China would seriously affect the rest of the world; but the collapse of the British Empire would be followed by results incalculably greater, and it is no exaggeration to say that it would convulse the whole future of human society." By its union it obviates the risk of war between a quarter of the human race. The problem, therefore, is to keep the Empire stable. But the British Empire, a great international state, presents many problems; its population is distributed amongst some fifty subordinate states in which are represented most of the races and all the gradations of human society "and all these it correlates within the jurisdiction of one permanent state." The imperial